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FOR DEAN FISCHER FROM PA/PRESS
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TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (HAIG, ALEXANDER M.)
SUBJECT: EDITORIAL FROM BALTIMORE SUN, APRIL 19, 1982
-- FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY STOESSEL/TOD P 20013
NO. 45
7. "CHEMICAL WARFARE"
US CHARGES THAT THE SOVEIT UNION IS USING CHEMICAL AND TOXIN WEAPONS IN AFGHANISTAN AND SOUTHEAST ASIA ARE UNFORTUNATELY LINKED WITH ADMINISTRATION EFFORTS TO RESUME US PRODUCTION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 11 YEARS. WHY UNFORTUNATELY? BECAUSE THE CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE OF SOVIET VIOLA TIONS OF THE GENEVA CONVENTION IS SO CONVINCING THAT NO GROUNDS SHOULD BE PROVIDED FOR SUSPICIONS THAT WASHINGTON HAS ULTERIOR MOTIVES IN PRESENTING ITS CASE.
EVEN MATTHEW MESELSON, A HARVARD BIOLOGIST WHO HAS QUESTIONED "YELLOW RAIN" TALES OF HORROR COMING FROM REMOTE PARTS OF LAOS AND CAMBODIA, NOW SAYS, "I AM PRETTY
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CONVINCED THAT SOME KIND OF CHEMICAL WARFARE IS GOING ON." CLEARLY, THE ADMINISTRATION IS IN A POSITION TO ROUSE WORLDWIDE REVULSION AGAINST MOSCOW. YET THE MORAL FORCE OF THE US CASE COULD BE UNDERMINED BY ADMINISTRATION EFFORTS TO BEGIN PRODUCTION OF BINARY NERVE GAS MATERIALS AND WEAPONS.
FOR YEARS, AN FOR GOOD CAUSE, THE PENTAGON HAS BEEN WORRIED ABOUT SOVIET PROGRAMS IN THE CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WARFARE FIELD. THE RUSSIANS HAVE BUILT UP LARGER STOCKPILES THAN THE AMERICANS, TRAINED FAR MORE TROOP UNITS FOR CHEMICAL WARFARE AND DEVELOPED TANKS AND OTHER VEHICLES TO OPERATE UNDER CHEMICAL WARFARE CONDITIONS. NOW, WITH THE EVIDENCE OF SOVIET EXPERIMENTATION WITH LETHAL TRICHOTHECENE TOXINS AND NEW CHEMICAL AGENTS IN REMOTE PARTS OF ASIA, AMERICANS HAVE TO WONDER WHAT THEIR ADVERSARIES HAVE IN MIND.
BOTH THE US AND THE SOVIET UNION HAVE RENOUNCED FIRST USE
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OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS. BUT BOTH HAVE RESERVED THE RIGHT TO DEVELOP AND STOCKPILE SUCH WEAPONS, AND TO EQUIP THEIR FORCES WITH OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE CAPABILITIES. PRESIDENT NIXON UNILATERALLY HALTED US PRODUCTION OF CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS IN 1969 PARTLY BECAUSE OF POPULAR UNREST ABOUT US USE OF NON-LETHAL DEFOLIANTS AND RIOT-CONTROL GASES IN VEITNAM AND PARTLY BECAUSE HE WANTED SAFER AND MORE EFFICEINT WEAPONS. THE TECHNOLOGY EXISTS TO PRODUCE SO-CALLED BINARY WEAPONS THAT COMBINE TWO SEPARARE CHEMICALS INTO A DEADLY MIXTURE ONLY AFTER THEY ARE FIRED. PRESIDENT CARTER RESISTED PRESSURE TO PROCEED, BUT PRESIDENT REAGAN HAS REVERSED HIM, THUS SETTING THE

STAGE FOR DEBATE.
THE CASE SEEMS CLEAR FOR A STEP-UP IN US PRETARATIONS FOR DEFENSIVE MEASURES AGAINST AN ENEMY CHEMICAL OR TOXIN ATTACK. AMERICAN TROOPS SHOULD HAVE THE BEST TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT POSSIBLE. BUT THE CHEMICAL OFFENSIVE WARFARE STOCKS ON HAND, EVEN WITH THEIR GROWING OBSOLESCENCE, OUGHT TO PROVIDE A SUFFICIENT DETERRENT UNTIL THE AIMINISTRATION CAN DETERMINE IF THERE IS ANY HOPE LEFT FOR A CHEMICAL DISARMAMENT TREATY.
6. NEW YORK TIMES SUMMARY, MONDAY, APRIL 19, 1982
"CAIRO AFFIRMS VOW ON PEACE PROCESS: U.S. ENVOY SAYS EGYPTIAN CHIEF CALLS CAMP DAVID THE ONLY EXISTING BASIS FOR TALKS" BY WILLIAM E. FARRELL, PP. 3
PRESILENT REAGAN'S SPECIAL ENVOY TO THE MIDDLE EAST MET TODAY WITH PRESIDENT MUBARAK AND SAID THE EGYPTIAN LEADER HAD AFFIRMED THAT THE CAMP DAVID ACCORDS WERE "THE ONLY EXISTING BASIS" FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE REMARKS BY STOESSEL WERE MADE AFTER HE MET WITH MR. MUBARAK FOR MORE THAN AN HOUR. MR. STOESSEL LATER LEFT FOR ISRAEL FOR TALKS WITH PRIME MINISTER MENACHEM BEGIN AND OTHER ISRAELI LEADERS.
EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS SAID THAT THE MUBARAK GOVERNMENT HAD REBUFFED AN ISRAELI REQUEST FOR A WRITTEN REASSURANCE OF EGYPT'S COMMITMENT TO THE ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN PEACE TREATY BEFORE ISRAEL'S SCHEDULED FINAL WITHDRAWAL FROM THE SINAI PENINSULA NEXT SUNDAY.
BEFORE DEPARTING FOR ISRAEL, MR. STOESSEL SAID, I CONTINUE TO BE CONFIDENT THAT THE EXISTING PROBLEMS WILL BE OVERCOME AND THAT THE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM THE

SINAI WILL TAKE PLACE ON SCHEDULE."
"WE ALSO HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO REFER TO THE CAMP DAVID ACCORDS AND THE PRESIDENT ASSURED ME OF HIS FIRM ADHERENCE TO THE CAMP DAVID ACCORDS AS THE ONLY EXISTING

BASIS AND FRAMEWORK ON WHICH TO PROCEED IN THE SEARCH FOR A JUST, LASTING AND COMPREHENSIVE PEACE IN THE AREA.
THERE HAS BEEN GROWING OPPOSITION AND SKEPTICISM IN ISRAEL IN RECENT WEEKS ABOUT RETURNING THE LAST OF SINAI. SOME ISRAELIS ARGUE THAT ISRAEL IS RELINQUISHING STRATEGIC TERRAIN AND, IN RETURN, RECEIVING ONLY A PLEDGE THAT EGYPT WILL CONTINUE THE PEACE PROCESS. MR. STOESSEL IS EXPECTED TO STAY IN THE AREA UNTIL THE FINAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM THE VAST DESERT TRACT. THERE ARE STILL SEVERAL POINTS OF CONTENTION THAT ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS, WITH THE INTERCESSION OF MR. STOESSEL, ARE TRYING TO RESOLVE.
8. "ISRAEL PLANS TO EVICT SINAI ACTIVISTS TODAY" , NEW YORK TIMES, APRIL 19, 1982, PP A3
THE ISRAELI RADIO REPORTED TODAY THAT THE DEFENSE MINISTRY HAD DECIDED THAT THE ARMY WOULD MOVE MONDAY MORNING TO EVICT THE MILITANT JEWISH DEMONSTRATORS WHO HAVE DEFIED ORDERS TO LEAVE NORTHERN SINAI SO THAT IT CAN BE RETURNED TO EGYPT NEXT WEEK.
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE WALTER J. STOESSEL, JR., WHO HAS BEEN ON A MISSION IN T F AREA TO EASE ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN

TENSIONS, RETURNED TO JERUSALEM FROM CAIRO TODAY AND MET THIS EVENING WITH PRIME MINISTER MENACHEM BEGIN AND OTHER ISRAELI OFFICIALS.
9. "WAR OF NERVES BETWEEN SYRIA AND IRAQ INTENSIFIES" BY THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN, THE NEW YORK TIMES, PAGE 5
BEIRUT, APRIL 18--THE WAR OF NERVES BETWEEN SYRIA AND IRAQ INTENSIFIED OVER THE WEEKEND, WITH SYRIA CALLING FOR THE OVERTHROW OF THE BAGHDAD GOVERNMENT AND IRAQ VOWING TO ORGANIZE AN ARAB ECONOMIC BOYCOTT OF THE DAMASCUS REGIME ALTHOUGH THE STATE-CONTROLLED SYRIAN PRESS HAS PUBLISHED A TORRENT OF ARTICLES DENOUNCING PRESIDENT HUSSEIN, MR. HAMDOUN'S STATEMENT MARKED THE FIRST TIME THAT A SENIOR SYRIAN OFFICIAL HAS OPENLY ADVOCATED THE OVERTHROW OF THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT.
DAMASCAS SAID THE BORDER CLOSING WAS NECESSARY BECAUSE IRAQ WAS INFILTRATING SABOTEURS, WEAPONS AND EXPLOSIVES INTO SYRIA, WHERE THEY ARE BEING USED BY THE FUNDAMENTALIST MOSLEM BROTHERHOOD TO "UNDERMINE" THE ASSAD GOVERNMENT.
IN RESPONSE TO THE SYRIAN MOVES, IRAQ'S OIL MINISTER, TAYEB ABDUL KERIM, SAID THAT IRAQ WOULD CALL ON OTHER ARAB NATIONS, PARTICULARLY SAUDI ARABIA AND NEIGHBORING OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES, TO IMPOSE ECONOMIC SANCTIONS ON DAMASCUS. IRAQ ALSO SAID IT WOULD CALL A MEETING OF ITS 250-MEMBER NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO DISCUSS HOW TO CONFRONT THE SYRIAN CHALLENGE.

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10. "SOVIET DECREE ON SEA MINING SEEN AS PROD TO US" BY JOHN F. BURNS, THE NEW YORK TIMES, PAGE 8
MOSCOW, APRIL 18--THE SOVIET UNION ISSUED A DECREE TODAY
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EMPOWERING SOVIET ENTERPRISES TO ENGAGE IN DEEP-SEA MINING. IN SO DOING, MOSCOW SERVED NOTICE ON THE US THAT SOVIET CONCERNS WERE READY TO CHALLENGE AMERICAN COMPANIES IF THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION CONTINUES TO BLOCK AN INTERNATIONAL SEA-BED AGREEMENT.
TASS, PUBLISHED THE TEXT OF THE DECREE, WHICH ENABLES THE GOVERNMENT TO ISSUE LICENSES TO SOVIET ENTERPRISES FOR PROSPECTING AND MINING MINERAL RESOURCES ON THE SEABED BEYOND THE CONTINENTAL SHELF. THE DECREE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE PERMITS COULD BE ISSUED FOR ANY AREA OF THE SEA-BED WORLDWIDE THAT LIES IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS.
MOREOVER, THE TEXT PROVIDED FOR THE CANCELLATION OF THE DECREE IF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA IS APPROVED WITH THE SOVIET UNION AS A SIGNATORY.
RATHER, THE DIPLOMATS SAID, THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES APPEARED TO HAVE FASHIONED THE DECREE AS A MEANS OF PRODDING THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION INTO APPROVING AN AGREEMENT IN A NEW ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS THAT BEGAN AT THE UN LAST MONTH. EAGLEBURGER
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